## REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments prior to examination on the merits pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.115(b)(2)(iii). Applicants enclose herewith an English translation of the international application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.495(c)(1). Applicants also enclose a Substitute Sequence Listing in paper and electronic form, a Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney, and an Assignment together with the fees required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.21(h). The fees required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.16(e) and 37 C.F.R. §1.492(f) have been submitted previously.

Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 1-22 have been cancelled and new claims 23-52 have been added. Applicants assert that the new claims are fully supported by the application as orginally filed and, therefore, do not constitute new matter. Specifically, claims 23-52 are supported by, *inter alia*, original claims 1-22.

Rewritten paragraphs appear in the preceding "IN THE SPECIFICATION" section. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification paragraphs by the instant amendment captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE" and is included pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(ii). Should any discrepancies be discovered, the version presented in the preceding "IN THE SPECIFICATION" section shall take precedence.

A sequence listing in computer readable form has not previously been filed in this application. Nevertheless, both the electronic and paper sequence listing attached hereto are identified as "Substitute Sequence Listing."

I hereby state that the content of the paper and computer readable copies of the Substitute Sequence Listing submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.821(c) and (e), are the same. I hereby state that the content of the paper and computer readable copies of the Substitute Sequence Listing, submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.821(g), herein does not include new matter.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due with this submission not otherwise enclosed herewith to Deposit Account No. 02-4377. Please credit any overpayment of fees associated with this filing to the above-identified deposit account. A duplicate of this page is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures

## VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

This marked-up version was prepared with DeltaView software (v2.5.163). In this section, added text is marked with double underlining. *e.g.* added text, and deleted text is marked by a single strikethrough, *e.g.* ~~deleted text~~.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 14 (of the English translation) and ending on page 4, line 18 has been **amended** as follows:

**Description of the Sequence Listing**

SEQ ID ~~No.~~ NO:1: *SGS3* gene of *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

SEQ ID ~~No.~~ NO:2: cDNA of the *SGS3* gene of *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

SEQ ID ~~No.~~ NO:3: *SGS3* polypeptide of *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

SEQ ID NO:4: Primer p356AD'.

SEQ ID NO:5: Primer p356Y'.

The paragraph beginning on page 47, line 1 (of the English translation) and ending on page 47, line 22 has been **amended** as follows:

The DNA sequence which was inserted at the BamHI site of the pBin+ plasmid and which had led to the isolation of the bacterial strain 356 was determined. Subclones of the 356 clone were produced in the pBin+ vector and the same *sgs3-2* 2a3 line was transformed with these subclones in order to determine those

capable of restoring the function of the *SGS3* gene. The smallest subclone capable of restoring this function constitutes the *SGS3* gene such as it is described in this ~~patent~~disclosure. It was possible to predict the ORF of *SGS3* by computer analysis. The sequence of the cDNA containing the ORF of the *SGS3* gene, and therefore the position of the promoter, terminator and intronic sequences of *SGS3*, were verified after having isolated and cloned this sequence. In order to isolate, we first performed a reverse transcription reaction using *Arabidopsis thaliana* total RNA. We then performed a PCR reaction on this pool of cDNA using the pair of primers p356AD' (AAAATGAGTTCTAGGGCTGGTCC; SEQ ID NO:4) and p356Y' (GTCTCAATCATCTTCATTGTGAAGGCC; SEQ ID NO:5). These primers are located at the 2 ends of the ORF of SGS3. This PCR product was cloned and sequenced.